

CLAIMS

[0082] What is claimed is:

1. A vaginal speculum assembly comprising:
first and second speculum jaws to engage a vaginal aperture and to provide a desired opening of said vaginal aperture, wherein at least one of said first and second jaws is associated with a mounting configuration to support an inspection device at a desired position relative to a vaginal cavity associated with said vaginal aperture.
2. The speculum assembly of claim 1, wherein said first speculum jaw comprises a first engagement portion and a first handle portion, and wherein said second speculum jaw comprises a second engagement portion and a second handle portion, said second jaw being pivotally connected to said first jaw such that said first engagement portion is moveable from an open position to a closed position in relation to said second engagement portion when said first and second handle portions are moved apart.
3. The speculum assembly of claim 2, wherein said first and second handle portions are generally perpendicular to said first and second engagement portions, respectively.
4. The speculum assembly of claim 2, wherein said first engagement portion comprises a truncated engagement portion.
5. The speculum assembly of claim 1, wherein said mounting configuration comprises a mounting mechanism to support said inspection device on said first jaw.
6. The speculum assembly of claim 5, wherein said mounting mechanism is detachable from said first jaw.
7. The speculum assembly of claim 6, wherein said first jaw comprises a mounting groove able to receive a mounting portion of said mounting mechanism.

8. The speculum assembly of claim 5, wherein said mounting mechanism is configured to enable movement of said inspection device relative to said first jaw along at least one predetermined axis.

9. The speculum assembly of claim 5, wherein said mounting mechanism comprises a locking mechanism that, when locked, is able to prevent movement of said inspection device relative to said first jaw.

10. The speculum assembly of claim 9, wherein said locking mechanism comprises a fastener able to secure said inspection device in said mounting mechanism.

11. The speculum assembly of claim 5, wherein said mounting mechanism comprises a clamping arrangement having a first clamping element pivotally connected to a second clamping element, wherein said clamping arrangement is able to clamp said inspection device between said first clamping element and said second clamping element.

12. The speculum assembly of claim 11, wherein said mounting mechanism comprises a securing mechanism to secure said clamping arrangement in a closed position.

13. The speculum assembly of claim 1, wherein said mounting configuration comprises:

a housing adapted to pivotably support said inspection device, wherein said housing is connected to a shaft adapted to be inserted through a channel in said first jaw.

14. The speculum assembly of claim 13 comprising a rod movable within said shaft, wherein said rod, when rotated, is able to pivotally rotate said inspection device.

15. The speculum assembly of claim 14, wherein said housing comprises an adaptor to associate said inspection device with pivot portions of said housing, a base portion of said adaptor having an elongated aperture, and wherein a coupler extending from a distal end of said rod is able to be placed

in said aperture, thereby to enable said inspection device to be pivotally rotated when said rod is rotated.

16. The speculum assembly of claim 14 comprising a rod lever connectable to said rod and able to controllably rotate said rod in relation to said shaft.

17. The speculum assembly of claim 13, comprising a locking mechanism that, when locked, is able to prevent movement of said shaft in relation to said first jaw.

18. The speculum assembly of claim 17, wherein said locking mechanism comprises a fastener that, when fastened in said first jaw, is able to secure said shaft in said channel.

19. The speculum assembly of claim 13 comprising a shaft lever connectable to said shaft and able to controllably rotate said shaft in relation to said channel.

20. The speculum assembly of claim 1, wherein said inspection device comprises an ultrasound device.